



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re
International Application of

Paul SAGE

U.S. National Phase of
International Application No.
PCT/GB01/03349

International Filing Date:
25 July 2001

PIPE NETWORK OPTIMISATION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

BOX PCT
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the application as follows prior to calculation of the filing fees.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claim 4.

5. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the modification of operation (ii) is selected from a database of possible modifications.

8. (Amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the criteria is cost and the modification operation (ii) proposes a modification selected from a database of possible modifications and their associated costs, wherein the selected modification is the modification providing the smallest decrease in costs from the current proposal.

9. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said at least one predetermined operating parameter includes one or more of a maximum acceptable hydraulic gradient, minimum and maximum permissible pressures specified for elements of the